

PHILIP D. MURPHY GOVERNOR

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JOSEPH P. LASALA, ESQ.

MARK T. HOLMES, ESQ. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 6, 2019

Valerie Hayes, ELO Stockton University 101 Vera King Farris Drive Galloway, New Jersey 08205

Re: Waiver to the Provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(b)

Dear Ms. Hayes:

At its June 5, 2019 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Michele Fairweather, Dispatch – Facilities and Operations, Stockton University, whose son, Daniel Fairweather, is currently employed by Ocean Resort Hotel and Casino as a shipping/receiving staff member. Based on the facts and circumstances set forth below, the Commission granted a waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b).

Generally, Section 17.2(b) of the Conflicts Law prohibits all State officers and employees and members of their immediate families from holding an interest in, holding employment with, representing, appearing for, or negotiating on behalf of the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license or any holding or intermediary company with respect thereto. However, the statute also contains the following exception language:

except that ... a member of the immediate family of a State officer or employee, or person, may hold employment with the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license if, in the judgment of the State Ethics Commission ... such employment will not interfere with the responsibilities of the State officer or employee, or person, and will not create a conflict of interest, or reasonable risk of the public perception of a conflict of interest, on the part of the State officer or employee, or person ....

The Commission agrees that there is no conflict between Ms. Fairweather's position at Stockton University and her son's employment with Ocean Resort Hotel and Casino. Ms. Fairweather's position and her son's employment do not overlap, and there is no conflict of interest

Page 2 June 6, 2019

or reasonable risk of the public perceiving any kind of conflict between her position and her son's casino employment.

Based on the facts and circumstances set forth above, the Commission granted the waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b) in the case of Michele Fairweather and her son, Daniel Fairweather.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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For the Commission Mark T. Holmes Executive Director

MTH/sc

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